vailing in these mines | industries during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) According to information received from t'he Government of Madhya Pradesh, the State Government have taken a number of steps to improve the working conditions in the slate and pencil industry. Many of the slate and pencil making units in Madhya Pradesh have installed dust extraction system to control silica dust. The State Government has also arranged for occupational health survey. A new schedule has been included in the M. P. Factory Rules for protection of health and safety of workers working in Slate Pencil Industry M.P. Slate Pencil Workers' Welfare Fund Act, 1982 has also been enacted for the welfare of these workers and their families. The Slate Pencil establishments in M. P. located in Mandsaur District which were earlier not covered by the Factories Act, 1948 have since been declared as fac*ories under Section 85 of that Act.

(c) The information is being collec ted from the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Closure of textile mills **In Indore and Ratlam**

761. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) since how long the Hope Textile Mill at Indore and Sajjan Mill at Ratlam are lying closed;

(b) whether Government are taking any fresh initiative to start these mills and provide some relief to the workers who have been rendered jobless;

'(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what is the attitude of Government in regard to restoring of these mills, either by take-over|nationalisation or otherwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES ^ (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) M|s. Hope Textiles Limited. Indore and M|s. Shri Sajjan Mills, Ratlam, are lying closed since June, 1986 and February, 1986 respectively.

(b) and (c) The Nodal Agency which has been set up to examine sick textile units in order to ascertain whether they are potentially viable or not, has come to the conclusion that Hope Textile Mills, Indore and Shri Sajjan Mills, Ratlam are nonviable. Such non-viablle Mills, as ~ laid down in the June, 1983 Textile Policy, may have to close down permanently and their workers will be eligible for financial assistance under the Textile workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme, provided the units closed down permanently on or after 6th June, 1985.

(b) Government do not propose to either take or nationalise these mills. The State Governe'nt, if they so desire, may nationalise these mills.

Beedi workers

762. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI; Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated number of beedi workers in various States of the country;

(b) whether any fresh welfare measures have been initiated by Government to prevent exploitation of Beedi workers and to ameliorate their economic and social conditions; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

T

HE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The estimated number of beedi workers in various States is indicated in the enclosed Statement. (See below)

(b) and (c) Facilities regarding health, education, housing, recreation, etc. are made available to the workers from the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund. There is always a constant effort to enlarge and extend the acope of the welfare activities i.e. sanctioning new dispensaries, sanctioning more scholarships etc.

Statement

Nwrie of State	No. of Beedi Workers (in lakhs)
1. Andhra Pradesh	2.50
2. Bihar	3.50
3. Gujarat	0.50
4. Karnataka	3.00
5. Kerala	1.50
6. Madhya Pradesh	5.65
7. Maharashtra	2.50
8. Orissa	1-60
9. Rajasthan	1-00
10. Tamil Nadu	2.00
11. Uttar Pradesh	4.5
12. West Bengal, Assam Tripura & Meghalaya	4.50
TOTAL	32.75

Seizure of Indian fishing trawlers by Pakistani Coast GuarCk

763. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTL RAM PATEL. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA: SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistani Coast Guards had detained and seized Indian fishing trawlers while fishing in the territorial water near Okha in Gujarat in the first week of January, 1987; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to get back the Indian fishing trawlers and also release of crewmen'

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAB SINGH)-: (a) Yes, Sir; three Indian fishing vessels and two vessels on lease with Indian companies were seiz- • edby Pakistani authorities in January, 1987.

(b) the matter was taken up with the Government of Pakistan. Two of the vessels and their crew have already been released and we have been informed that Pakistan is ready to release two other vessels and their crew. The case about the fifth vessel is yet to come up in Pakistan courts.

Blacklisting of importers and exporters

764. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of importing and exporting organizations blacklisted since 1st April, 1986; and

Ob) the names of Government undertakings black-listed since 1st April, 1985?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) There is no provision for black-listing of firms in the Imports and Exports Control Act and the Orders issued thereunder.

Development of tourism in North-Eastern States

765. SHRI JERLEE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the North-Eastern States have good tourist potential to attract foreign tourists; and